

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-49, 53-56 and 62-65, without prejudice. Claims 50 and 59 are amended to more clearly claim the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 50-52, 57-61 and 66 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Abele (US 5,693,014). While Applicants disagree that Abele "contains all the limitations as claimed", as stated by the Examiner at page 3 of the Office Action, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly define the invention.

Claim 50 and the claims that depend therefrom claim a balloon catheter an outer surface having at least a first portion and at least a second portion. The second portion includes a higher-friction section having a coefficient of friction higher than the coefficient of friction of the first portion. The higher-friction section has a first radius when the balloon is in the collapsed condition (see Figure 37, element 407, for example), and a second radius that is greater than the first radius when the balloon is in the expanded condition (see Figure 39, element 407, for example), the first portion having a third radius when the balloon is in the collapsed position (see Figure 37, element 403, for example) and a fourth radius that is less than the second radius when the balloon is in the expanded condition (see Figure 39, element 403, for example). Claim 59 is similarly supported by at least Figures 37-41 and the accompanying text.

Applicants submit that the rejection is overcome in view of the amendments to the claims and request the Examiner to indicate that claims 50-52, 57-61, and 65-66 are allowable. If the Examiner would like to discuss the claims, she is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Applicants hereby grant permission to charge any additional, necessary fees during the course of the prosecution of this application to Applicant's deposit account no. 10-0750/HRT-0148/BST.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
Dated: May 13, 2004

By: 

Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349